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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY INTERIOR: MR. SUTTON: MRG
X-21317 4/6/73
APPROVED BY ARA/ MEX: CPTORREY
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---------- 006894
R 062204 Z APR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PBOR, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICAN INITIATIVES IN NATIONAL PARKS

1. SUMMARY: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS BEING ASKED BY GOM TO MEET IN MEXICO CITY TO JOIN IN NEW COOPERATIVE PARK PROGRAMS AND DISCUSS PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL PARKS. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASSESS NEW GOM INITIATIVES AND ADVISE ON NPS PARTICIPATION.

2. FOR TWO YEARS THE US NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY LIC. HORACIO A. GALLEGOS GAMIOCHIPI, A YOUNG AND ENERGETIC LAWYER AND UNTIL RECENTLY DIRECTOR GENERAL DE SANCIONES Y GUIAS IN THE MEXICAN DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM; TO LEARN ABOUT PARK MANAGEMENT. CLAIMING TO BE ON SPECIAL ASSIGN-MENT FOR PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, GALLEGOS VISITED WASHINGTON AND NUMEROUS US NATIONAL PARKS IN 1971, DISCUSSED PARK MANAGEMENT POLICIES WITH NPS OFFICERS, ATTENDED THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS IN YELLOWSTONE AND
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GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS IN 1972, AND DRAFTED A LONG-RANGE MEXICAN NATIONAL PARK PROGRAM BASED ON US PRINCIPLES AND THE 100 YEARS OF NPS EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD.

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3. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. MYRON SUTTON AND MR. JULIO MARRERO OF NPS DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, GALLEGOS PROPOSED WHAT HE CALLED A " TRULY INTERNATIONAL PARK" BETWEEN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TEXAS, AND A PROPOSED SIERRA DEL CARMEN NATIONAL PARK, COAHUILA. LATER HE HELD FIELD DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF SAGUARO AND ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENTS, ARIZONA, TO DETERMINE THE DESIRABILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL PARK IN THE ORGAN PIPE CACTUS- PINACATE AREA, ARIZONA- SONORA. BY AN " INTERNATIONAL PARK," HE TELLS THE NPS THAT HE MEANS A SINGLE PARK " WITHOUT BARRIERS," UNDER JOINT ADMINISTRATION, WHERE VISITORS FROM BOTH SIDES WOULD MOVE FREELY AND TOURIST INCOME WOULD BE SHARED.

4. AT THE OUTSET OF THESE INITIATIVES, DR. SUTTON INFORMED STATE, CUSTOMS, AND IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, AND WAS ADVISED TO CONTINUE COOPERATION ON A TECHNICAL BASIS UNTIL SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE RAISED THAT WOULD REQUIRE US INTERAGENCY CONSIDERATION.

5. GALLEGOS EVENTUALLY DRAFTED A DECREE SETTING UP A COMISION NACIONAL DE OBRAS EN PARQUES NATURALES, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN SIGNED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WITH GALLEGOS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMISION. THE ORGANIZATION FUNCTIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF OBRAS PUBLICAS, AND GALLEGOS CLAIMS THAT MEXICAN PARK OFFICIALS, WHO ARE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF HIS COMISION. THE NPS HAS MAINTAINED CONTINUING AND FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS: ING. JAIME CARILLO SANCHEZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL DE PROTECCION Y REPOBLACION FORESTALES, AND JOSE ARREOLA TINOCO, JEFE DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE PARQUES NACIONALES. SINCE CARILLO AND ARREOLA ARE NOMINALLY IN CHARGE OF MEXICAN NATIONAL PARKS, NPS OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO SUSTAIN MAJOR WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM, WITHOUT ENTERING INTO COMMITMENTS WITH GALLEGOS.

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6. UNDER DATE OF MARCH 15, 1973, GALLEGOS WROTE TO

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MESSRS. SUTTON AND MARRERO ANNOUNCING HIS NEW APPOINTMENT AND PROPOSING TO INVITE THEM, NPS DIRECTOR RONALD H. WALKER, AND SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR FRANK KOWSKI TO MEET WITH HIM IN MEXICO CITY ON JOINT PROPOSALS, PLANNING, TRAINING AND PERSONNEL INTERCHANGES. HE ENCLOSED A CLIPPING FROM EL UNIVERSAL, DATED MARCH 20, L973, DESCRIBING HIS NEW PROGRAM AND SPECIFICALLY POINTING OUT THE ORGAN PIPE CACTUS AND BIG BEND INTERNATIONAL PARK PROPOSALS.

7. NPS IS DESIROUS OF PROMOTING JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH MEXICO SIMILAR TO THOSE UNDER WAY WITH CANADA, JAPAN

AND SPAIN. HOWEVER, IT FEELS THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURA AND OBRAS PUBLICAS UNDER THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE FOR AGRICULTURE PARK OFFICIALS TO SIT IN ON JOINT MEETINGS INSTIGATED BY GALLEGOS. THIS WOULD AVOID POSSIBILITY OF OFFENDING CARILLO AND ARREOLA AND INSURE THAT GOM COUNTERPART OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAND MANAGEMENT WERE INVOLVED.

8. NPS IS READY AND WILLING TO DISCUSS THE CONSIDERABLE HELP AVAILABLE IN PLANNING, TRAINING AND EXCHANGES FROM THE US SIDE. IT ALSO SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL PARK, AS IN THE CASEOF GLACIER- WATERTON ALREADY EXISTING JOINTLY WITH CANADA, BUT GALLEGOS' S PROPOSALS RAISE QUESTIONS OF ACCESS, REVENUE SHARING, AND JOINT ADMINISTRATION THAT GO BEYOND PRESENT EXPERIENCE. THE NPS IS THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO PROCEED WITHOUT ADVICE AND PARTICIPATION BY EMBASSY.

9. MR. GALLEGOS HAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL PARKS, SPONSORED ANNUALLY BY THE NPS, CANADIAN PARK SERVICE, AND UNIVERSITY
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